GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:64
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
INDO US CIVIL NUCLEAR DEAL
Karunakaran Shri P.;Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement and its present status;

(b) the adverse impact, if any, in the event of India deciding to go for nuclear test(s) for security interests of the country;

(c) whether India has also signed agreements with Russia and France for civilian use of nuclear energy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 64 REGARDING 'INDO-US CIVIL NUCLEAR DEAL' FOR ANSWER ON 22.10.2008

(a)-(b) The "Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy" was signed by External Affairs Minister and US Secretary of State on October 10, 2008 at Washington. The purpose of the Agreement is to enable civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and the United States covering nuclear reactors and aspects of the associated nuclear fuel cycle including enrichment and reprocessing. The Agreement contains a full reflection of the key understandings of the July 18, 2005 and March 2006 Joint Statements and our Separation Plan. The agreement enables the creation of a strategic reserve of nuclear fuel to guard against any disruption of supply over the lifetime of India's reactors. The Agreement grants prior consent to reprocess nuclear material obtained through international cooperation, under IAEA safeguards. The Agreement specifically provides that India's strategic nuclear programme, three-stage Nuclear Programme and R&D activities will remain unhindered and unaffected. There is no reference to testing in the bilateral agreement. The Agreement provides for a multilayered consultation mechanism to protect our interests as regards uninterrupted operation of our reactors in case either party decides to terminate. The Agreement meets the concerns of both sides and fulfils all the assurances made by Prime Minister to Parliament on August 17, 2006.

(c)-(d) Government have signed the "India-France Inter-Governmental Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation" for cooperation in civilian use of nuclear technology with the Government of France, on September 30, 2008. The Government expect to sign a cooperation agreement with Russia later this year.

(e) These agreements mark a resumption of nuclear trade and commerce with the international community. This will help us to increase the share of nuclear power in our energy mix, to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and will contribute to our energy security. The conclusion of these agreements also marks an end to the technology denial regimes targetted against India, and will lead to an expansion of high technology trade in the future.